

Introduced by Senator Alarcon
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Montanez)

June 29, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 56—Relative to Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 56, as introduced, Alarcon. Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim October 15 as Latino AIDS Awareness Day, and would urge all community-based organizations, religious communities, civic groups, health care providers, elected officials, and government agencies to utilize this day to raise awareness of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the Latino community.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Local social marketing efforts with appropriate
2 AIDS education to reach Latinos need to be expanded; and
3 WHEREAS, Latinos make up 14 percent of the population of
4 the United States and United States territories, but account for 20
5 percent of AIDS cases nationally; and
6 WHEREAS, AIDS and HIV pose a threat to national public
7 health and there are more than 130,000 people presently living
8 with AIDS in California; and
9 WHEREAS, The proportion of newly diagnosed Latino AIDS
10 cases in California has been increasing over the last decade and
11 in 2002 they represented 4,364 AIDS cases; and
12 WHEREAS, Among anonymous testers, Latino men who have
13 sex with men have the highest rate of new HIV infections of all
14 racial or ethnic groups and make up the second highest number
15 of AIDS cases diagnosed in 2002; and

1 WHEREAS, Among male-to-female transgendered persons,
2 Latinas make up the third highest percentage of HIV and AIDS
3 cases diagnosed in 2002; and

4 WHEREAS, National rates of Latinas exposed to AIDS has
5 climbed from 15 percent to 23 percent over the last 12 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Among people 13 to 24 years of age, Latino
7 youth in California make up the highest percentage of AIDS
8 cases diagnosed since the beginning of the AIDS and HIV
9 epidemic; and

10 WHEREAS, Latinos see AIDS as one of the most important
11 health issues facing the Nation. Yet many Latinos have
12 misconceptions about HIV transmission that must be addressed
13 through targeted prevention efforts using culturally and
14 linguistically appropriate health information; and

15 WHEREAS, Many Latinos lack health insurance and are not
16 connected to traditional social service and health care networks,
17 thereby making them more vulnerable to this epidemic; and

18 WHEREAS, Latino AIDS Awareness Day brings an
19 opportunity to increase community awareness and dialogue, to
20 commemorate those lost, and to bring leaders together to
21 advocate for greater services and community involvement to
22 fight this epidemic; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
24 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California
25 hereby proclaims October 15 Latino AIDS Awareness Day in
26 California, and urges all community-based organizations,
27 religious communities, civic groups, health care providers,
28 elected officials, and government agencies to utilize this day to
29 raise awareness of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the Latino
30 community; and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
32 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.